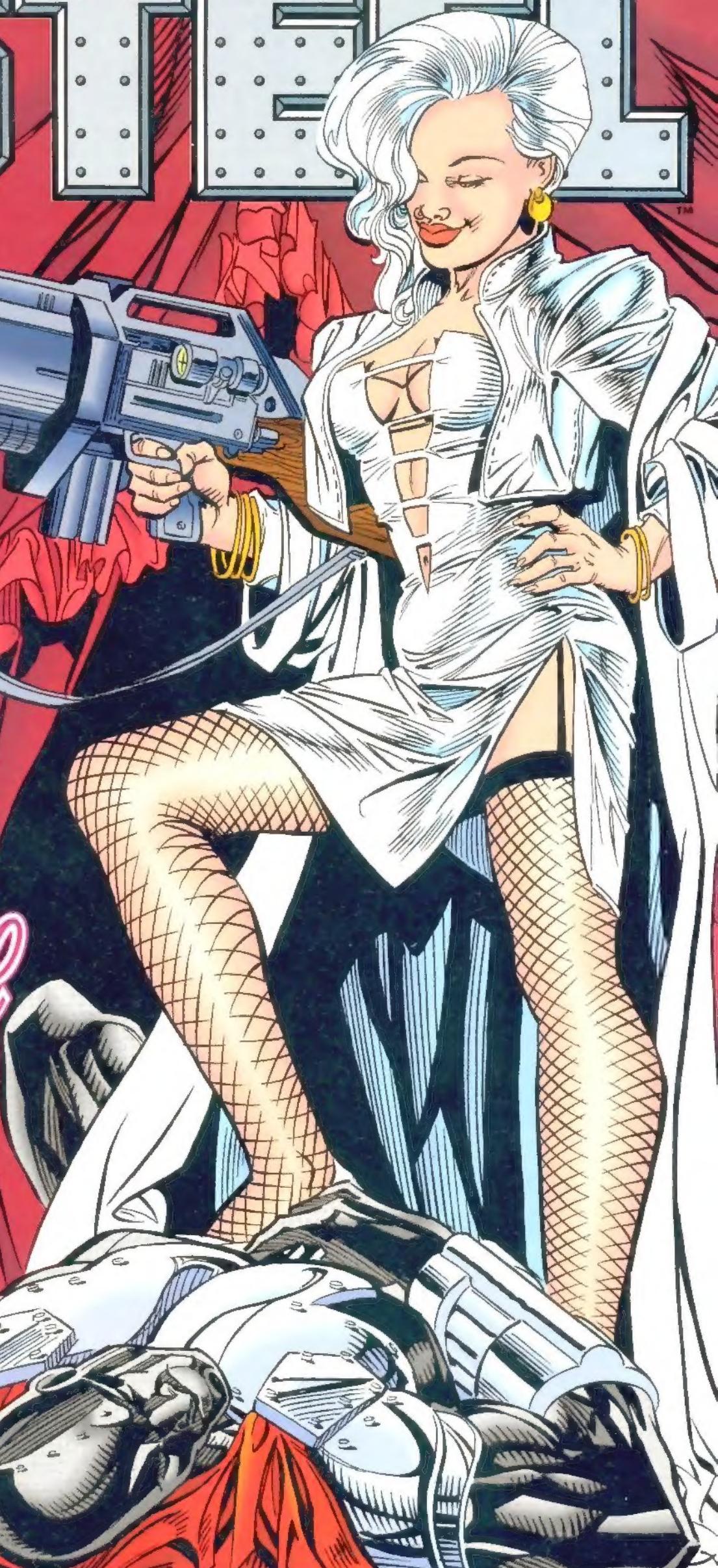
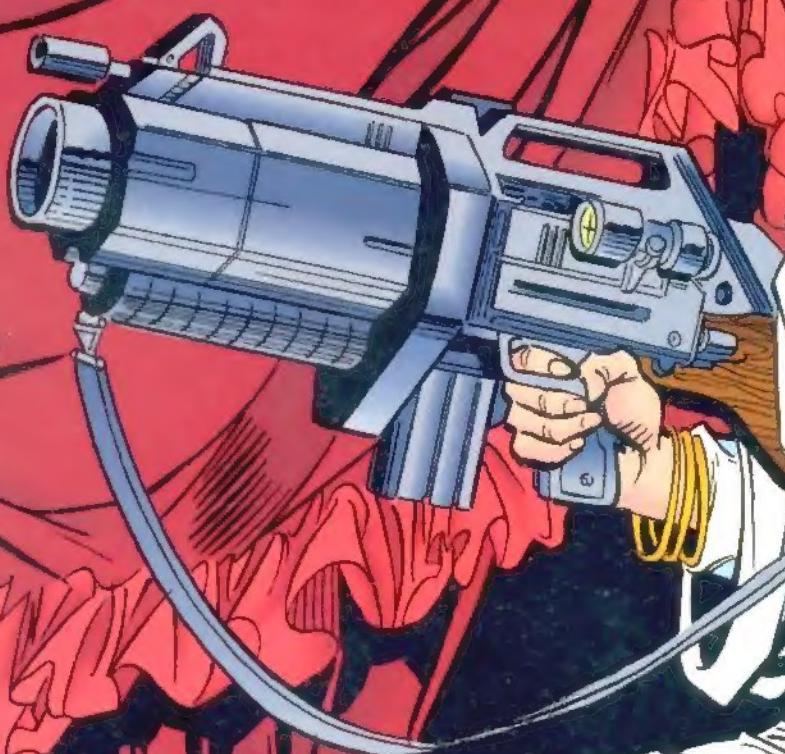




STEEL

15 \$1.50 US
\$2.10 CAN
70p UK

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



True Romance

L. SIMONSON • BATISTA • FABER

01511



61941 20176 4

DIRECT SALES



FATHER, WHAT
DO YOU MEAN
YOUR SOURCES
SAY MY COUSIN
IS ACTING
PECULIAR?

YES, SIR.
SARAH AS
AN AMERI-
CAN SEN-
ATOR,
BANG
ON, BUT--

MILES,
WILL YOU
PLEASE
PICK UP
THE RE-
CEIVER!!

NO, SIR.
I WON'T BE
CHEEKY,
BUT--

HER POLICIES
CAN HAVE
INTERNATIONAL
RAMIFICATIONS.
THAT'S TRUE,
BUT--

I CAN'T
BELIEVE SHE'S
ALTERED
HER POSITION
ON GUN CON-
TROL HERE!

THAT'S
BONKERS,
SIR, SHE'S
HATED GUNS
EVER SINCE
HER BROTHER
WAS KILLED.

APART
FROM
WHICH, SHE'D
NEVER--

I SUSPECT YOU'RE
USING THIS "**CRISIS**"
TO LURE ME INTO THE
FAMILY BUSINESS.

WELL, IT'S DOOMED
TO FAILURE. I'VE
CHOSEN THE **THEATER**,
NOT **SPYING**... ALL
RIGHT, THEN... IN-
TELLIGENCE--

OH, VERY
WELL, I'LL
SPEAK
WITH HER.
BUT AFTER
THAT--

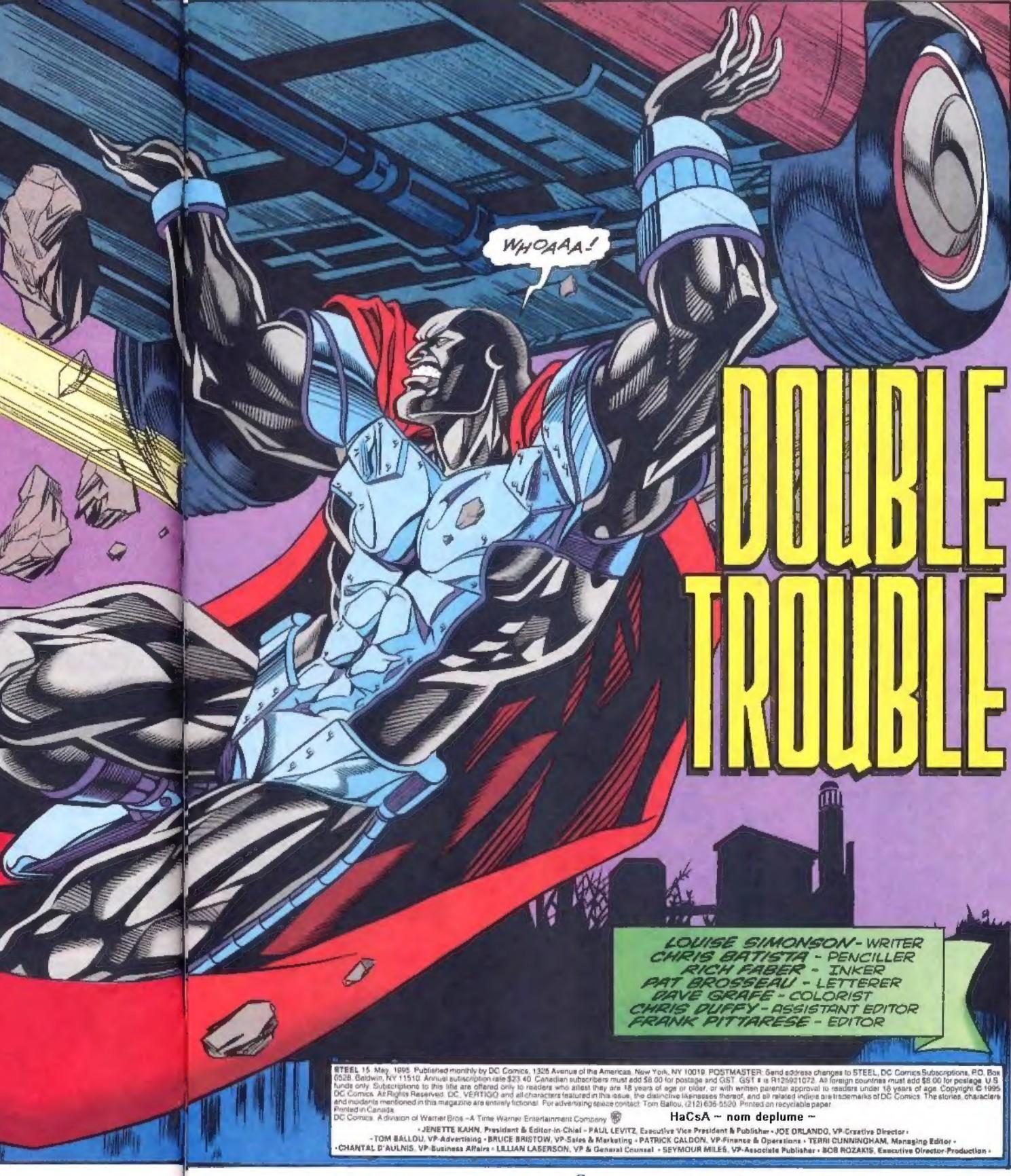
YES, SIR.
GOOD-BYE,
FATHER.

BOTHER!
IT'S A FAIR
BOX-UP!

STILL, WE'RE
MEETING AFTER
THE **PLAY** TONIGHT.
IT WILL BE EASY
ENOUGH TO **QUIZ**
YOU, SARAH MY
GIRL...

...BUT, TRUTH TO
TELL, I THINK
THE OLD BOY HAS
FINALLY--





THANK YOU...
STEEL.
ISN'T IT?
YOU... YOU
SAVED MY
LIFE.

N-NEVER
SAW
THAT MAN.

WHAT
MAN?

YOU
DIDN'T SEE
HIM--?

THE
SENATORS'
CHANGES
OF HEART
SEEM MAD-
NESS.

MAYBE
THIS IS THE
SORT OF
THING THAT
DROVE
THEM TO
IT.



THAT
SENATOR
WAS AS
GOOD AS
DEAD...
'TIL
STEEL
STUCK
HIS
NOSE
IN.

NEVER
MIND,
JITTER.
DEAR, YOU
CAN'T DESTROY
EVERYONE
WHO'LL VOTE
AGAINST
US...

...AT
LEAST,
ON YOUR
FIRST TRY.
YOU'LL JUST
HAVE TO KEEP
AT IT.

AND DON'T
WORRY. IF
STEEL CON-
TINUES TO
INTERFERE,
WHY THEN...

...HE'LL
JUST HAVE
TO JOIN
OUR LITTLE
HIT LIST!

UNCLE JOHN... WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I KNOW YOU PROBABLY HAD IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO AND PEOPLE TO SAVE AND... AND ALL THAT...

...BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE THEATER IN TWENTY MINUTES!

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY! AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN DRESSED! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT--

SURE WE WILL, KITTEN.

WE WILL? HOW?

WE'LL FLY THERE AND I'LL CHANGE IN AN ALLEY NEAR THE THEATER.

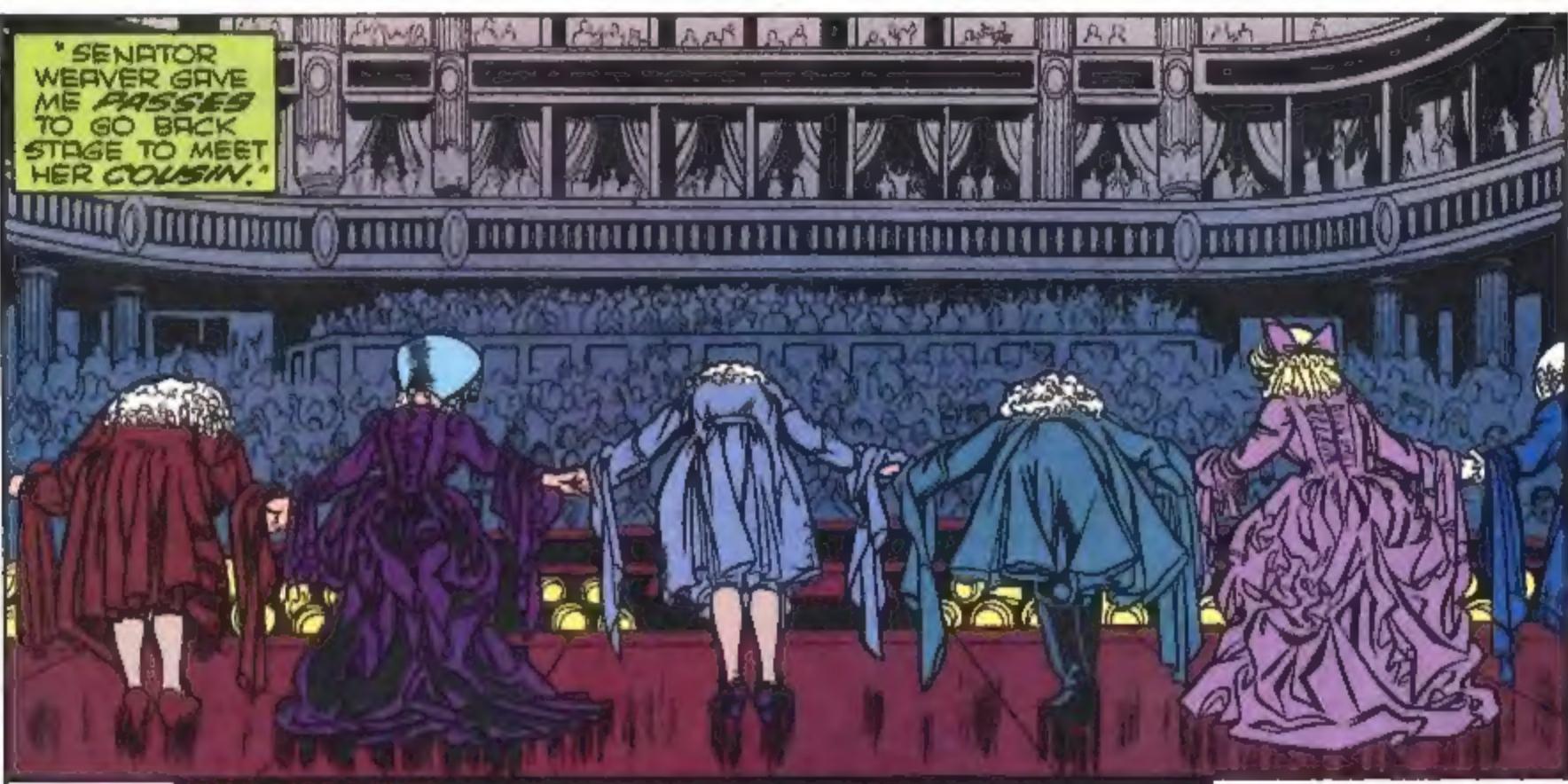
REALLY...?

REALLY! HOLD ON TIGHT, AND--

--WE'RE OUTTA HERE!"



"SENATOR
WEAVER GAVE
ME PASSES
TO GO BACK
STAGE TO MEET
HER COUSIN."



IS THAT
OKAY,
UNCLE
JOHN?

"...LET'S GO
MEET THE
STAR."

I'M A GREAT
ADMIRER
OF YOUR WORK,
MR. DUNCAN ...
SIR.

THANK YOU,
NATASHA. I'M
VERY
PLEASED TO
MEET YOU.

SURE,
BIRTH-
DAY
GIRL...

IF SHE WANTS
THE CHILD'S HEAD
TO SWELL LARGER
THAN A HOT-AIR
BALLOON, THAT
IS.

SARAH,
LUV!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

BRIGHT
AND VERY
PROPH-
ETIC,
I BELIEVE
SHE SAID.
SARAH--

--CAN
TELL NATE
FOR HER-
SELF.





SENATOR SHELTON WAS JUST KILLED! ANOTHER TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.

WHAT?! HE'S THE SECOND DISSENTER ON THE WEAPONS COMMITTEE TO DIE THIS WEEK.

MILES DUNCAN, MASTER OF DISGUISE...

EVEN YOUNG NATASHA DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME.

PASSES PROVIDED BY FATHER'S PEOPLE WORKED, EVEN THOUGH SECURITY IN THE SENATE OFFICES HAS BEEN TIGHTENED.

WHICH MEANS PEOPLE IN INTELLIGENCE HERE ARE LOOKING THE OTHER WAY. BUT WHY?

I'M STILL SHOCKED AT SENATOR WEAVER'S ABOUT-FACE ON GUN CONTROL.

NOT TO MENTION PARROTT'S.

I'VE STUDIED THE LAYOUT AND LEARNED ALL I CAN... FOR NOW.

HAVE TO COME BACK TONIGHT AND SNOOP MORE THOROUGHLY. IN DISGUISE OF COURSE. BUT HOW?

I WAS THERE. PARROTT STARED AT HIS COMPUTER AND WHEN HE LOOKED UP...

...HE WAS A DIFFERENT MAN, POLITICALLY.

JUST LIKE SENATOR WEAVER. I BETTER TALK TO UNCLE STEEL.

I'VE HEARD THAT STEEL SAVED SENATOR RAYFORD.

...OR HE'D HAVE BEEN THE THIRD TO DIE.

FIRST THING TO CHECK, THEN, IS THE COMPUTERS! AND I'LL RETURN AS R--



"--SUPER-
HERO, I'LL
MAKE A
POINT OF
MENTIONING
IT TO
FATHER."

I ASSUME
YOU'VE SUPPLIED
THE BLACK
SPANDEX IN AN
EFFORT TO FORE-
STALL ANY STAGY
THEATRICALS ON
MY PART.

I KNEW
THE "SUPER-
HERO" GAM-
BIT WOULD
DRIVE THE OLD
BOY WILD.

I KNOW,
SIR. SPIES
DON'T
ADVER-
TISE.

THERE'RE
A LOT OF
GADGETS
HERE, NO, SIR.
YOU NEEDN'T
REHEARSE
THEIR USES.

I'VE PRACTICED
MOST OF THIS
EQUIPMENT SINCE
I WAS OLD ENOUGH
TO WALK.

I KNOW...
YOU'VE ALWAYS
SAID I HAD A
TALENT FOR
THIS LINE OF
WORK. BUT I
PREFER ACT-
ING.

DARK
CLOTHING.
SO VERY
SUBTLE.

I MIGHT
AS WELL NOT
BE JOINING
THE AMERICAN
SUPERHERO
MILIEU.

STILL,
ARROGANT,
MELODRAMATIC
THOUGH I
MIGHT BE... I'M
NOT A TOTAL
FOOL...

YES...
WELL, I'LL
RING YOU
AS SOON AS
I'VE LEARNED
ANYTHING. GOOD-
BYE, SIR.

"... AND I KNOW THAT SECRECY DOES HAVE ITS USES."



FATHER WOULD BE APPALLED AT MY CHOICE OF COSTUME. STILL, WHEN IN ROME...

NOW THAT I'VE PASSED THE HIGH-TECH GRUNLET...

...USING THE STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT FATHER PROVIDED TO ACCESS THE SERVICE BASEMENT...

IT LOOKS TO BE ABSURDLY EASY TO ENTER THE BUILDING PROPER--

CLOMP CLOMP

GUARDS!

maybe not as easy as i thought.

STILL, WITHOUT THOSE HIGH-TECH TOYS THAT LOOPED THE SENSORS...

I WOULDN'T HAVE GOT-TEN THIS FAR.

RHH! NOW TO GET UP-STAIRS...

CLIK

"TO SARAH'S OFFICE."

GLAD IT'S A CLOUDY NIGHT OR I WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE OF SECRECY.

EVEN DARK AS IT IS, I'D BETTER MAKE THIS FAST!

GADGET I THREW TOGETHER. HA! I LABORED OVER IT FOR HOURS...

...SHOULD LOOP THE ALARMS... I HOPE.

WINDOW'S LOCKED. GOING TO HAVE TO APPLY A LITTLE HYDRAULIC MUSCLE...

IF I WANT TO GET IT UN-LOCKED.

GUARDS
SOUNDS
LIKE THE
PLACE IS
CRAWLING
WITH THEM

LUCKILY I'M
ABLE TO FLY
DOWN THE
STAIRWELL AND
AVOID TRIPPING
ANY SENSORS.

INCREASED
SECURITY
ISN'T SURPRISING,
I GUESS, CON-
SIDERING THE RECENT
DEATHS!

THAT
THEY WERE
ALMOST
SURELY
MURDERS...

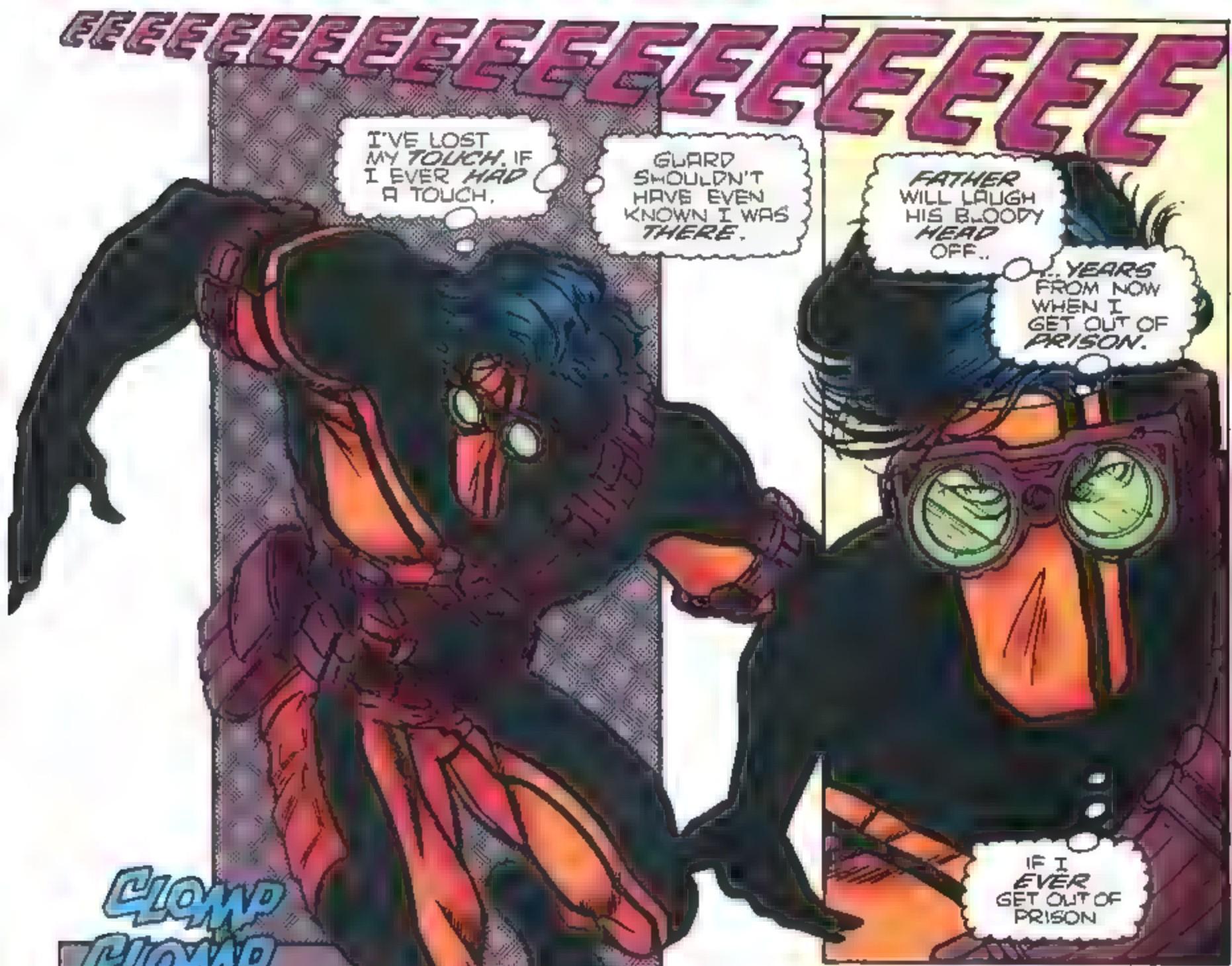
HDS
EVERY
ORGANIZA-
TION N-
SIDE THE
BELTWAY
IN AN UP-
ROAR.

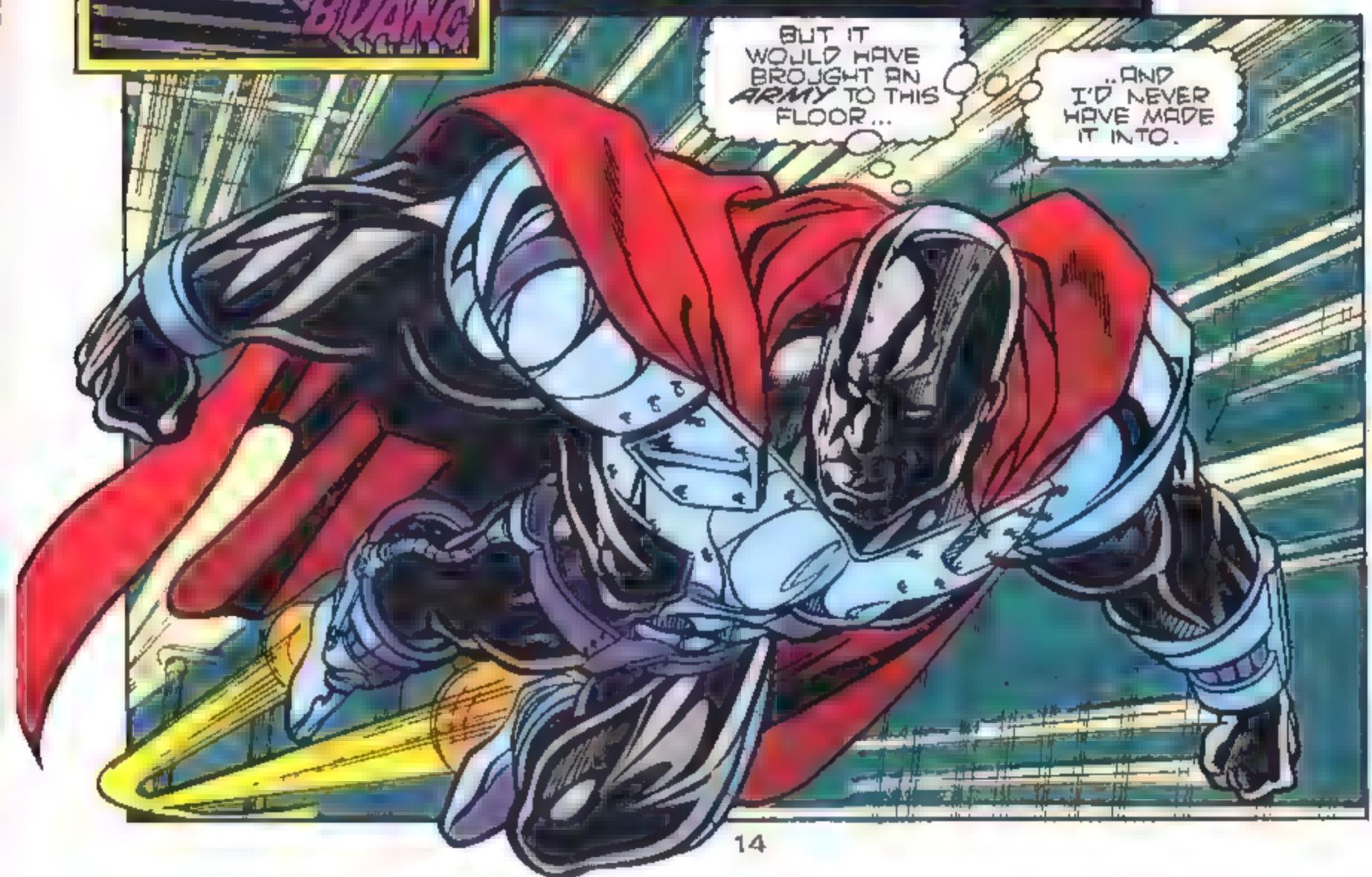
AND
SINCE THE
VICTIMS
WERE BOTH
SENA-
ATORS--

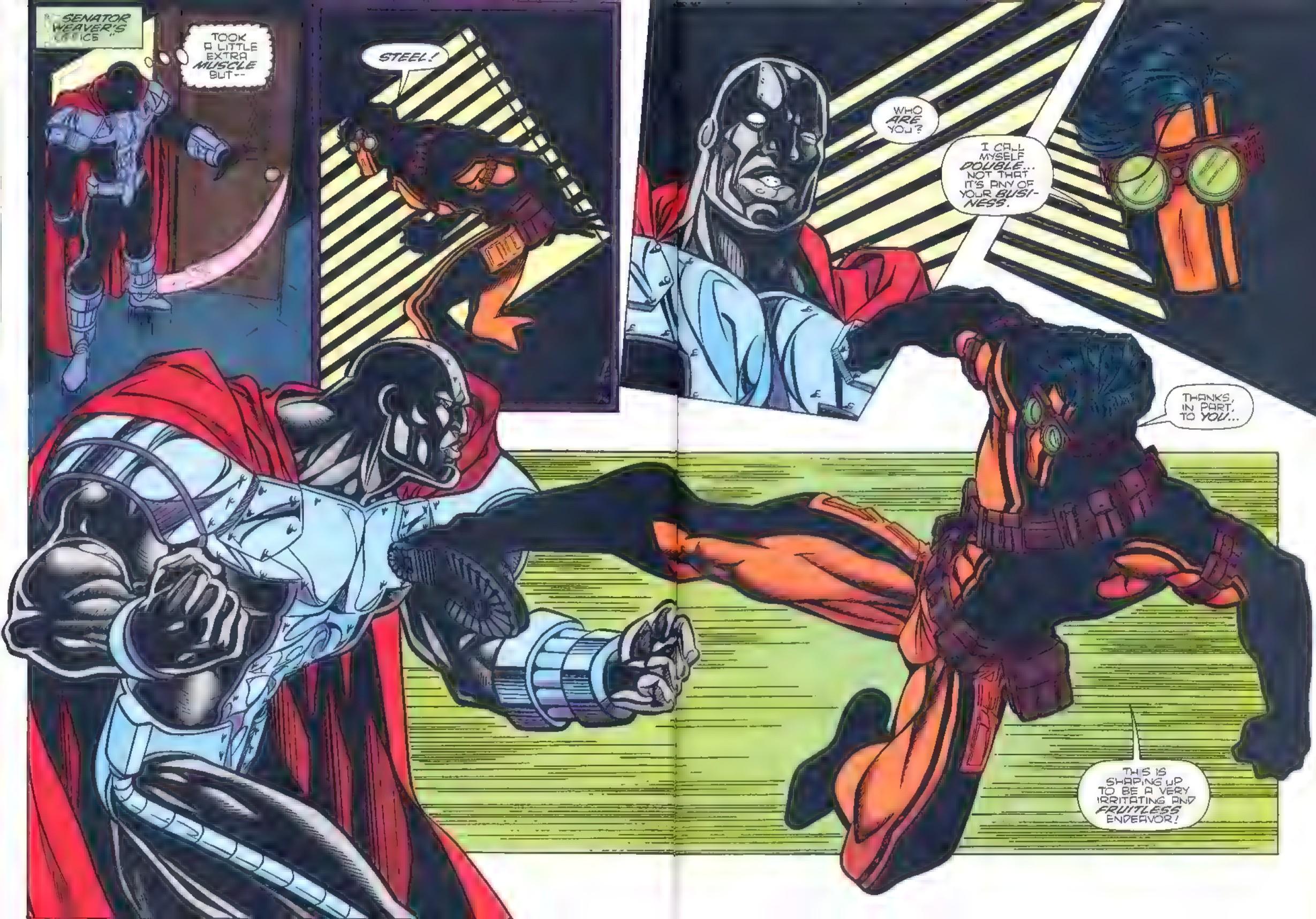
FROST
WHACK!

WHAT'S
THAT?/
SOUNDS
LIKE--

DIDN'T DROP
H.M. QUICKLY
ENOUGH! MUST
HAVE ACTIVATED
AN ALARM!







I DI-
VERTED
THOSE
GUARDS...

KWANG!

BUT AT
THIS RATE,
WE MIGHT
AS WELL JUST
SET OFF MORE
ALARMS!

BLOW
WOULD HAVE
FELLED
AN ORDINARY
MAN. DIDN'T
EVEN FAZE
HIM.

MUST
BE THE
ARMOR.

WHICH
MUST BE
HEAVY.

MAYBE
I CAN USE
ITS WEIGHT
AGAINST
HIM!

HE
MOVES
LIKE
GREASED
LIGHT-
NING.

BETTER
TAKE HIM OUT
FAST... IF
I CAN!

IF HE'S
OUR
MURDERER,
HE'S CAP-
TURED.

IF NOT...
AT LEAST
I'VE SHUT
HIM UP!

THE
GUARDS
AREN'T
STUPID.
YOU
KNOW

THERE'S
ONLY SO MUCH
MISDIRECTION
I CAN GET
AWAY WITH

MIS-DIRECTION?
THE GUARDS
AREN'T HERE...
BECAUSE OF
SOMETHING..
YOU DID?

WHAT DO
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE
POLITICAL
ABOUT-FACE
OF FORMERLY
LIBERAL...

...ANTI-GUN
MEMBERS OF
THE WEAPONS
COMMITTEE?

JUST
DON'T MAKE
ME REGRET
IT MORE THAN
I ALREADY
DO.

STEEL'S
PURPORTEDLY
ONE OF THE
GOOD GUYS.
I HOPE--

NOW
WHAT DO
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE
DEATHS
OF SENATORS
SHELTON AND
KROFT...

...AND THE
ATTEMPTED
MURDER
OF SENATOR
RAYFORD?

MY NAME
IS MILES
DUNCAN.

THE
ACTOR
!!?

AMONG OTHER
THINGS IT'S A
LONG STORY.
BUT I'M ALSO
SENATOR SARAH
WEAVER'S FIRST
COUSIN.

I SUSPECT WE'RE
HERE FOR THE SAME
REASON--

--TO FIND
OUT WHAT
HAPPENED
TO MY
COUSIN...

.. AND
THE OTHER
SENATORS IN
THE WEAPONS
CONTROL COM-
MITTEE

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BREAK INTO THE COMPUTER...

...AND SEE IF WE CAN FIND ANYTHING THAT WOULD BRAIN-WASH YOUR COUSIN.

SARAH'S COMPUTER FILES ARE PROTECTED THROUGH A PASSWORD SYSTEM.

ORDINARILY, WE'D HAVE TO KNOW THE MAGIC WORD TO GET BEYOND THE DESKTOP SCREEN.

HOWEVER... AN UNKNOWN PASSWORD WON'T STOP WHAT'S ON THIS LITTLE DISC.

WHERE DID YOU--?

STATE SECRET.
BUT TRUST ME!

THIS PROGRAM WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE FINEST MINDS AVAILABLE.

IF ANY GHOST PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED, THIS WILL SHOW--

WELL, WELL, IT APPEARS THAT THE HARD DRIVE HAS BEEN SECRETLY ALTERED WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS.

BUT ALTERED BY WHOM... AND TO DO WHAT--?

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND OUT.

WHOOP

SOUNDS LIKE
SOMEBODY'S
TAMPERING
WITH ONE OF
THE SENATORS'
COMPUTERS.

SO IT
DOES,
DIGIT
DEAR.

ALARM
BOARD SUG-
GESTS OUR
TAMPERER IS
IN SENATOR
WEAVER'S
OFFICE.

APPARENTLY
SOMEONE THERE
HAS DISCOVERED
OUR...
ALTERATIONS.



NOT A
CHANCE.
THE DIAG-
NOSTIC
PROGRAM
IS SIMPLY
TOO SO-
PHISTI-
CATED.

IT WOULD
HAVE TAKEN
STEEL YEARS
TO CONSTRUCT
IT. HE HASN'T
THE TIME...

...OR
FOR THAT
MATTER, THE
TALENT!

JITTER,
TAKE
WORM
TO SENATOR
WEAVER'S
OFFICE.

WHAT-
EVER THE
PROBLEM
IS, LET
HIM DEAL
WITH IT.



YOU
GOT
IT, MS.
BUNNY!

C'MON.
WORM!
YOU GOT
A M-M-
MEET-
ING...

...WITH
DESTINY!

WHAT
ARE YA,
SCARED?
AIN'T YOU M-
M-MAN ENOUGH
TA TAKE
'EM?

IT IS
STEEL! AND
ANOTHER
MAN! BUT
MS. BUNNY
SAID --

I'M MAN
ENOUGH...
AND THEN
SOME!

WORM'S
THE NAME...

...AND
TERMINA-
TION'S MY
GAME.

WHO--?

WHY
WOULD ANY-
BODY CALL
HIMSELF...
"WORM"?

...FOR A
ROGUE PROGRAM
THAT ENDLESSLY
DUPLEXES
ITSELF.

HACKER
SLANG, MY
FRIENDS...





I ASSUME
THAT THE
REASON
FOR MY CHOICE
IS NOW
OBVIOUS!

TO BE
CONTINUED!